



# FounderLink

The newsletter of *Soroptimist International of the Americas - Founder Region*

*Mary Ann Redden, Governor*

*October, 2003 Volume 3, Number 2*

*SPECIAL EDITION*

Dear Members,

I know we have all heard the saying "Time flies when you are having fun" but I did not realize that it flew at a supersonic speed. Since our Conference in May, it has been a whirlwind of a summer.

First there was the bus trip to the Redwood Memorial Grove. It was very successful and another is being planned for June 12-13, 2004. Mark your calendars now.

The next events were the Leadership Development Meetings. Thank you for attending these important meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity to share ideas and discuss the nuts and bolts of officer's duties. For the clubs on the mainland, the weekend also provided time for members to discuss in depth their ideas for their club year. Fundraising and service project ideas were shared, as well.

As your Delegate to the Soroptimist International Board Meeting in Sydney, Australia, it was my pleasure to observe, learn and participate. I found the five days of the board meeting to be fascinating. Hearing committee reports, participating in the process of choosing the right words for the Program Focus for 2003-2007 really impressed upon me how special we are as an organization. We truly are a global voice for women. We need to remind ourselves that we are unique and that the work that we do makes a positive impact in the lives of women and children in the world.

Speaking with and dining with members from around the world during the Board Meetings and then the Convention really made me appreciate my membership that much more. The fourteen days spent in Australia did not feel like I was away from home because of the friendships that I had previously made and were currently being developed. Soroptimist was not created to be a social organization, but a service organization. However if you really participate, understand the responsibilities of membership, and allow yourself to enjoy the time together with others, then you will have the best of what the organization has to offer.

My theme for the biennium is "Achieve Growth By Sharing" little did I realize how much these words would actually mean to me. I will do my best to share what I have learned from my experiences as your Governor. The District Meetings are now upon us and I hope you will take the time to share your experiences with me.

Governor Mary Ann